



CORONA - CIA Management Role

4 November 1964

S

sub: CORONA

ADWheelon to Gen. Carter

Prepared at DDCI's request documentation on CORONA and role CIA will play through

Att. A (Historic summary of correspondence)

Aug 26, 1964

Mtg. Secty Vance, Fubini, Kiefer, Gen. Carter. Carter brot up COR procurement and fact that funds not released to Program B beyond October. Kiefer said this was being financed through Prog A in accord with Aug 11 meeting as recorded by Dr. McMillan. McMillan's record was read by Vance.

Carter said then such an arrangement obviated any further input by CIA into CORONA. Vance said CIA technical participation was desirable.

Aug 28, 64

Ltr from Carter to Vance. Said Agency had no record of discussion regarding transfer of contracting responsibility for CORONA payload from B to A. Mr. McCone did not agree to any changes in contracting procedures and particularly any for payload.

Oct 3, 64

Gen. Carter MFR. Referred to Vance 28 Aug letter saying all contracting responsibility for COR payloads shld be under Gen Greer and implied that EXCOM NRO had agreed this was feasible and shld be done or at least tried.

On 1 Sept at NRO EXCOM attended by DCI & DDCI a lengthy involved discussion of COR contracting after which Vance said he was willing to continue COR contracting as at present if McCone desired. McCone said it was his desire, and ~~that~~ it was agreed contracting responsibilities remain status quo.

10 Sept McCone brief EXCOM on plans to augment WC component of CIA and take responsibility for all CIA contracting and other functions. There was no dissent to CIA contracting for CORONA at that meeting.

29 Sept EXCOM Vance reopened COR contracting subj and McMillan quite vituperative--no decisions--McMillan reported he had sent memo to Vance and ~~Wheelon~~ on which contracts he had in mind for Greer to manage.

1 Oct McMillan memo arrived and made clear that COR contracts he wants to transfer to AF include SI contract at Lockheed, formerly known as

NRO review(s) completed.

2 Oct 1964, Vance called Carter re those contracts and Carter reiterated DCI's position: The contracts previously and presently held by CIA shld remain with CIA and we wld augment our staff on W/C to administer them as previously agreed.

25X1 October 6, 1964 [redacted]

Ltr McCone to Vance

25X1 Outlined proposal for assigning [redacted] to W/C (Gen. Greer) 25X1

25X1 [redacted] under Greer's direction wld be responsible for:

a. Payload contracts (LMSC, ITEK, GE) via CIA contr officer located at Greer's area.

b. Security of payload through CIA S/O in L.A. 25X1

c. Two CIA tech people working w/him on CORONA. NRO

[redacted]

25X1 Also [redacted] and staff shld participate in all supplier meetings so payload team remains cognizant of total system status

25X1 [redacted] to recognize [redacted] role in payload area. 25X1

25X1 [redacted] staff to participate in CCB or whatever coordinating mechanism is established.

25X1 Oct 15 64 [redacted]

Vance reply to DCI 6 Oct ltr acknowledged DCI's ~~1st~~ proposal to consolidate under Greer CIA responsibilities for security, contracting and tech assistance in CORONA.

Vance added: a. Greer to have complete tech direction as well as over-all mgmt control.

25X1 b. [redacted] would perform the general System Engrg function.

25X1 c. [redacted] as COR Proj Dir to be chairman of Cor Adv. Comm.

25X1 d. Tech directions on approved changes to be prepared by [redacted] as COR Proj Dir.

25X1 e. Gen. Greer wld have single authoritative representation of Govt for tech direction on the entire COR system (SRV, Camera, Substructure, Agena, etc.).

Vance agreed with DCI's plan for realignment of management controls and urged that it shld proceed without delay.

25X1 Oct 26 64 [redacted] 25X1

DCI replied to Vance agreeing Greer to exercise complete tech direction and that corporations such as [redacted] and others should be assigned responsibilities such as gen systems engrg. DCI referred back to 6 Oct ltr re [redacted] responsibilities 25X1 asking for mtg to work out details. Final agreed arrangements should be set forth in a memo for the record prepared at the conclusion of such meeting.